

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING 3/16/2012

SB 414 AAC THE LICENSING, INVESTIGATION AND DISCIPLINARY
PROCESSES FOR
PHYSICIANS AND NURSES

Testimony of Theresa Conroy, APRN

Good afternoon Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter, and Members of the Public Health Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to testify today in favor of Senate Bill 414 An Act Concerning Advanced Practice Registered Nurses' Certification Or Signature.

As an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse, I find that the bill before you is essential to removing barriers to healthcare and streamlining health care access by avoiding duplicity of care.

As there are several statutes that are referenced in this bill, I will explain what I mean by this statement with a simple example. CGS Section 14-73: Instructor's License, states that the applicant must have a recent medical examination by a physician licensed to practice within the state and that the physician must certify the applicant is physically fit to operate a motor vehicle to become an instructor. On the other hand, the State of Connecticut Department of Motor Vehicles allows APRN's to complete the Examination to Determine the Physical Condition of a Driver through the Code of Federal Regulations, 49 CFR 391. What this means is that an APRN is allowed within current scope of practice to appropriately assess and certify documentation for DOT physicals, which allow specialized licenses such as operating a commercial vehicle. Furthermore, the Code of Federal Regulations defines medical examiner as a person who is licensed, certified, and/or registered in accordance with applicable State laws and regulations, to perform physical examinations. The term includes but is not limited to, doctors of medicine, doctors of osteopathy, physician assistants, advanced practice nurses, and doctors of chiropractic

In practice, this means an APRN can certify the health of a commercial

driver, however, by current CT Statutes is prohibited from certifying an instructor. An instructor who has an APRN as his primary care provider must disrupt his health care by seeing a physician just to complete a physical because of the need to have the designated signature.

This is one of many statutes that needs to be addressed, just to allow a signature on a form. Not a scope issue. The Bill is clear on that point. This is just a signature issue.

I encourage the Public Health Committee to work closely with the CT APRN Coalition to ensure that we are streamlining access to care by amending the appropriate statutes that are currently acting as barriers to patients and preventing APRNs from practicing within their scope of practice.

Thank you for considering this request and for the opportunity to raise my concerns.

Theresa W. Conroy, APRN

177 Skokorat Street

Seymour, CT 06483